WARZINE t.m. FREE!

P.O.BOX 148
BELFAST
BT1.

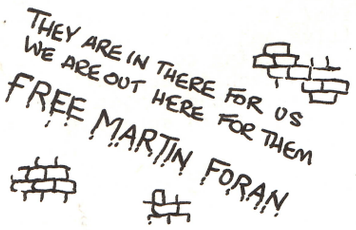
NO.7

NOV-DEC '88.

FREE MARTIN FORAN GRAFITTI DAY

On the 3rd Dec, 1988, people everywhere will be hunting out their paintbrushes, paint and spray cans and decorating every available space with FREE MARTIN FORAN slogans. It is hoped that N.I. will do it's bit as well.

Martin was arrested in SEpt. '84 and charged with robbing a pub, and subsequently sentenced to an 8 year prison sentence. He fits none of the descriptions given by the publican and has 15 witnesses' statements confirming his alibi.



While he has been in prison, his health had deteriorated severely, and there are fears for his life. In order to obtain vital medical attention he held a prison officer hostage. He received the treatment and, after 3 weeks, a severe beating from the prison officers.

In addition, he was sentenced to an extra 6 years for false imprisonment of a warder.

Martin deserves all the support he can get. The graffiti day is one way of giving it.

For more information, write to Martin Foran Defence Campaign, Leeds ABC, 52 Call Lane, Leeds. If possible enclose a donation, or an sae at least.

PRIVATISATION PLANS...

In Sept, '89, the govt. are planning to privatise the Regional Water Authorities in England and Wales. I phoned the WAter Board in Belfast in a bid to find out if there were any plans to do the same over here. The man I spoke to assured me that as yet there were no immediate plans to sell off the N. Irish or Scottish water boards, but he said that there ws a likelihood of it happening here in the future.

Even if it never happens here, we still all have something very serious to worry about and we should be taking every opportunity possible to show the govt. our opposition to these plans. The reasons why are simple. The people who are being offered first options on the valuable commodity of water are big businesses such as I.C.I., B.P. etc. If they take up the options, they will be responsible for providing us with clean drinking water, treatment of sewage and determining the acceptable levels of pollution in our countries waterways.

The big chemical companies are already our main polluters, it seems absolute madness to give them a free hand to determine their own levels of pollution because as in the past profit always comes before safety. Our drinking water is already over polluted witohut it getting any worse and if things carry on as planned we may find another meter installed in our homes alongside the existing electric one and yet another bill slipping through our letter box every three months - tihn'k about it!!

~GIG NEWS~

Well if you've read the last issue of Warzine you will already know about the no alcohol gigs at the art college. The first one has aleady taken place and was a great success. Killer crust, 3-ring psychosis, Crude and snyde, Evil priest and F.U.A.L. played. There was a great turnout and a brilliant atmosphere all afternoon.

The following gigs are coming soon.....

Concrete Sox and Doom make their second attempt to play at here at

- Art College, Belfast.

Nov. 26th. 2pm -6pm

- McGonagles, Dublin.

Nov. 27th 3pm - 7pm

Again the Belfast gig will be alcohol free.

Bolt-thrower and Carcass.

-The art college on Sat 3RD Dec 2pm-6pm(alcohol-free)

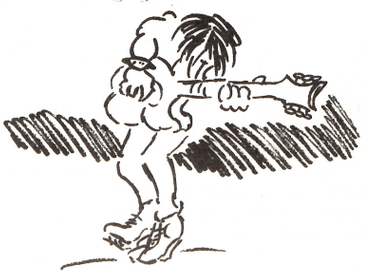
-McGonagles,Dublin Sun 4TH Dec 3pm- 7pm.

Instigators.

-The art college Sat 17th 2pm-6pm(alcohol-free).

-McGonagles,Dublin Sun 18TH Dec 3pm - 7pm.

All gigs wil have local support bands and stalls selling food, magazines, records, leaflets etc... If you feel like helping out come down to the cafe a couple of days before the gig.



ANNES' CENTRE NEWS.

Yes once again the monthly centre report. Well we'll start with the art workshop. It is now finally in its rightful place after a day of extreme hard work and it wil be ready for action sometime very soon!!

Last weekend the cafe was redecorated and it now looks extra pretty again thanks to the hard work of those concerned.

On Nov 12th we are holding a'benefit jumble sale'in the cafe. If you have any jumble that you could donate please bring it down. Or if it's hard to shift ask in the cafe about transport.

The library is slowly but surely getting bigger and hopefully when things are a little less hectic we will it running within the next few weeks.

Last but not least we we now have transport in the shape of a van!!! Which as you can imagine is of great benefit to the centre.

Well that's about it for this month as you can see quite a lot happening really - cheerio.

Update - The jumble sale has happened, and apprx. £140 was raised for the land fund. There is still millions of jumble lying around, so we're planning another one really soon.

SOMEONE WITH A SMALL PENIS WRITES...

Society lays down two very different and distinct roles for men and women. All the many ramifications of this (men - action men - woodwork - rugby / women - dolls - cookery - sewing etc.) have been discussed before, so I'll not bother repeating them.

What I want to get at is the macho aspect of a man's role. It is too easily taken for granted that machismo disappears with sexism when men reach the point of reassessing their behaviour and attitudes to women. This is quite blatantly not the case, as the vast majority of non - sexist men seem only too willing to be tough and machovand thus sexist to each other; this is easily demonstrated by the amount of slagging and name calling that goes on. There's lots of reasons for it, and there's too many petty - minded people about for it to stop overnight.

But! Consider when you slag a male friend. If he was to display signs of being hurt, by going quiet or crying etc., he would instantly be the object of intense ridicule. When people slag me, evenif theyare friends and it is "just for a laugh", I've often wondered why I feel not only crap for being laughed at, but also why I feel there is something wrong with it all. The reason is that men who slag, ridicule, poke fun at other men are forcing the object of their slagging to be MACHO, forcing them to laugh it off, to pretend they're not hurt. Just like in the rugby changing rooms where they're all laughing at the size of each other's dicks.

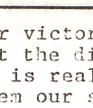
I've also often wondered why I prefer the company of women to men, and I think the reason is because I've very rarely found a woman who is macho and who would slag me and ridicule me and thus force me to be macho and tough and unhurt. Therefore in the company of female friends I can fully relax and be the real me instead of hiding half my personality behind a shield of macho bravura. I can, and have creid on the shoulders of girls, but could I cry on your shoulder, or would I be quickly shrugged off with a mutter of "faggot"? And while all you would - be Freudians out there are searching through your text books to try to find out whether I've got a tiny penis or whether I was breast fed as a baby, why don't you put your books down and try living in the real world? Instead of instantly criticising me or what's in this yourself, why don'T you pause for a moment, and examine yourself, to see if you don't fit the stereotypes I'm talking about.

What I'm trying to say is that we'll never truly liberate ourselves as men if we can't rid ourselves of machismo AS WELL AS sexism. I have so many male friends that I value dearly, I would really like to be able to tell them that I love them, but if I even tried to, I just feel I'd never be able to show my face in pblic again. Yes, this could well be my fault, but on the other hand, I've yet to hear any other male tell another man that he loves him. Granted, love is something special, and not a word to be bandied about lightly, but "special" shouldn't by a synonym for stigmatised. We should be able to talk of platonic love between men (and women) without having to deal in pathetic, bigoted, sexual stereotypes such as "faggot" etc.

The jist of this is a plea for men not to be slagging each other, because we're only forcing ourselves into inept macho roles that society has dictated. Also, I6m going to try to keep this article anonymous - not because I'll be embarrassed in front of all my macho male friends (which I will probably have to be anyway), but because I want every man who reads this to imagine that every other man wrote it, and then to realise/ admit that men are sensitive and can be hurt, and then to start trying to be kind and caring to each other. Let's stop talking in cliches about love and peace, and try to spread some about instead!

"...underneath, they're all loveable."

BOYCOTT CHELSEA GIRL!



This meeting, on 19th Oct., was called to gather support for the, at the time, six week old strike by 32 workers from Chelsea Girl from their Castle Place shop in Belfast (sacked for refusing to work overtime witout extra pay). The meeting also came at rather an apt time, as the previous Saturday, 18 workers and supporters had been arrested outside the shop, and on the day of the meeting, a ocurt injunction had been brought out against them to reduce the number of picketers at any one time outside the shop.

Originally, I had planned to discuss the meeting, but I think that's pretty irrelevant, and uninteresting as well, there was the usual left wing Militant types sprouting their party politics. I did not go to hear them (I went to suppport the strikers), and I'm sure you're not interested in reading about them either!

What I will say though, is that I was really disappointed by the lack of turnout at the meeting, and consequently, the lack of numbers of picketers outside Chelsea Girl at the minute, 4 weeks on from that meeting. When the picket first began, I would notice that hardly anyone was inside the shop, the strikers had been succeeding in turning people away. But, as I walked past yesterday, not a person or banner was to be seen, all there was was a small note in the window proclaiming that the court injunction had gone "in the management's favour".

So, another victory for the bosses? I know that the dispute is not over yet, so it is really important that we give them our support, especially now as it has been going on for so long, they must be getting very dispondant.

This probably goes without saying, you probably wouldn't be seen dead in a shop like Chelsea Girl (it would ruin your street cred!), but make a conscious effort to avoid the shop, wherever you are, not just in Belfast, and also other shops owned by the same management, such as Top Shop. And go along and offer your support to the strikers on the occasion that they are out protesting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO GIGS?

Over the past year or so 'punk'(or 'hardcore' or whatever the term is these days)seemed to have had a bit of a revival.It's brilliant to see and difficult to write about without sounding more than a little patronizing. When I was young(!)I used to listen to people like Crass,Rudimentary Peni and Subhumans and it was them who helped me form many of the opinions I now hold.They made me question instead of accept,they made me think instead of imitate,they made me get up and try and do things and no longer just sit about waiting for it all to happen.The only access I had to them was through their tapes and records,for one reason and another I was never able to go to gigs.This makes me all the more enthusiastic about them now.For a while they were just one-off events.People spent months trekking round town looking for places to play;the Orpheus,the Old Museum Building etc.The only ones who played were local bands and quite often the gig ended in violence (always without exception perpetuated by outside forces such as the short haired brain donors both in uniform and out). Everyone had to go home and another venue was closed to us.Then,at last,the Art College became available.At the first few gigs everyone stood nervously about waiting for trouble but it never came.Gigs became a regular occupancy and we became a bit more adventurous by asking English bands to come over again. For me,gigs are a place to meet people and enjoy yourself.Obviously,they are for entertainment but surely there must be more to it than that?At some of the recent gigs all I've seen is a bunch of people on stage posturing in the accepted manner of all 'rock-stars'.Money and music seem to be the only incentives,I half expect to look around and see an E.M.I. 'talent scout' in the crowd eyeing up the latest marketable craze.At the Hunt Sab stall some people looked through the leaflets available and then asked was there nothing about skate-boarding? I don't have anything against 'metal' bands or skate-boarders, it's just I have a lot more feeling for anyone who cares about what is going on..I am really happy to see people who are willing to make the effort to come to Ireland but is there not a bit more to our lives than Conor Hall and McGonagles? And it's brilliant that so many people come to the gigs but I hope that they take home with them more than just a tee-shirt. We've all so much potential,it's time more than ever to start using it.....

Who needs identity cards when you can have high level access to DHSS files? There has been a big increase in the last few months where people have been arrested in their local dole office when they go to sign on. This means of course that the DHSS and local police forces are working hand in hand to catch up with police "suspects".

DHSS files contain a lot of information and the police can now find out more about us that is good for our health. If you ever get stopped by the police, don't tell them you're signing on day if they ask you, it just makes it easier for them to look up your name in the files, and it's a question you don't have to answer anyway.

The Brits. are also in on the game. There was an incident reported in a local newspaper saying that the army were using DHSS files to pick out "easy prey" and bribe them into touting on various people. A man was offered £70 to spy on suspects in his neighbourhood, and threatened to be shot if he didn't co-operate. He had been sent a letter on official headed DHSS notepaper with a phone number which he was asked to ring, and when he rang the number, he was threatened into becoming a paid tout. The man must have had more sense than the army suspected, because he refused the offer and took himself off out of Northern Ireland. He's now in hiding in the South, afraid to come back incase they carry out their threat.

Big brother is watching you....very closely.

ORANGE COUNTER MARCH REPORT

September 17th saw the landing of 'King Billy in Devon on his way to fight the Fenians at the Boyne.As you may already know a mass march through the streets of Exeter was planned by the Orange Order to commemorate this wonderous event with the co-operation of the local Labour council and the likely participation of our freinds the National Front!

The Plymouth and Exeter anarchists groups, not wishing to miss out on all the fun decided that they with the help of a caring and considerate folk from around the country would stage a counter demonstration in order to show their disgust at this blatant display of fascism and bigotry.

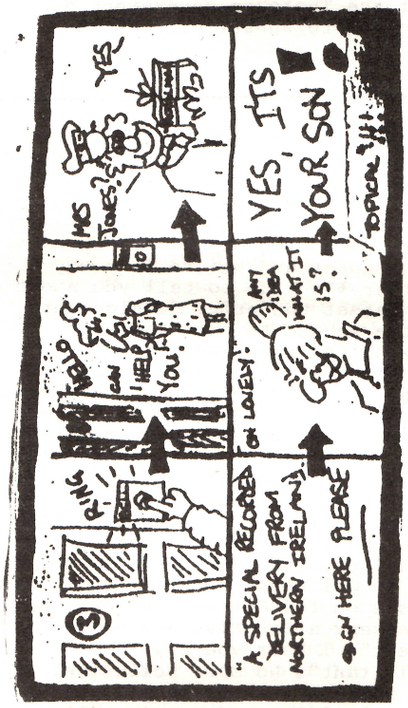
We arrived down on the Friday night and were put up in a squat. The next morning after breakfast we went into town were we met up with about four hundred others outside a church. We stood about cold and bored and listened to some speakers from the trendy left for a while and then we went on a march through the town, accompanied by the encouraging cheers of " Commie scum" and various other derogatory remarks.

ANTI-McDONALDS' DAY

The 16th October was anti-McDonalds day all over the world and Belfast, being part of the world had it's share of the action. The big ugly Wimpy bar in the city centre was picketed all day and leaflets were handed out to passers by.

We had a good response from a lot of people who stopped to ask what all the fuss was about. Most of them had no idea of the kind of corruption and exploitation companies like Wimpy and McDonalds deal in, so it was good to be able to tell them and hopefully open their eyes their eyes a bit.

Later on in the day the Wimpy bar was pelted with stink bombs! He also recieved an anonymous letter signed 'Belfast A.L.F.' which claimed to have smashed six plate glass windows belonging to the Kentucky Fried Chicken, which is quite a feat considering Belfast is one of the most highly policed urban areas in the world.



At one stage finding ourselves unable to pass down a particular street due to a police road block we all sat down in the middle of the road. We didn't get to see any Orangemen as the police had carefully routed the marches not to clash. However with the marching bit out of the way lots of people decided that a bit of direct action was needed and headed off toward the railway station in search of stray fascists. The police however had other ideas and thought it highly amusing to herd people about like sheep. In the High street they decided that the only means of dispersing us was by charging at us and chasing us out of Exeter. This proved quite a useful tactic as tactics go not only did they manage to get us out of Exeter but they managed to land two of their colleagues in the hospital.

SQUAT UPDATE

As you no doubt know if you have been reading Warzine over the last few months, there have been various attempts by certain individuals to take control of their housing situation. At the moment, there are two squats around the Holyland area of Belfast. One of them has been going for about six weeks, and the other one is coming into its secone week as I write. The second of the squats is so far quite successsful and houses roughly half a dozen people.

The first squat however has experience several difficulties, but has survived none the less. It now houses four people and a dog. When originally squatted there seemed to be no problems. It had electricity, heat and a lively co-operative atmosphere. However, this was soon to change. The Donegall Pass D.S. paid an early morning visit and arrested and charged 3 of the occupants with very trivial offences. Two days later, the uniformed police paid the squat another visit accompanied by two electricity men who cut off the electricity. The police returned again later on that night looking for a scapegoat to charge with stealing electricity but luckily they left empty handed.

A rather more disturbing incident occured last week, and as a result the second squat was opened. A gang of people came to the house and threatened the people in at the time. At least one of the unwelcomed visitors was waving a gun around. Obviously some people thought it safer to move out. But the ones remaining are determined to stay put despite the difficulties. Let's hope that this one is successful, and manages to get as far as the courts.

THE REAL BIGOTS

Although the R.U.C. spend a lot of money and time trying to explain to us that they are not the bunch of bigoted bastards we all know they are, they couldn't explain away the fact that three of their uniformed officers were spotted writing sectarian slogans on a Gaelic football clubs wall in Lisnaskea. The three D.M.S.U.members (old S.P.G.) were seen by someone who lived next to the football ground writing such bigoted gems as 'Fenians out','Wankbox' and of course 'U.V.F.' The person immediately contacted club officials who went straight to the local police station to lodge a complaint. Half an hour later three more policemen were seen hanging about where the D.M.S.U. had been seen. When the club offials went to investigate they found that the pigs had disappeared, along with the graffiti which had been whitewashed over.....The police are of course launching an inquiry into the matter.....It does wonders for community relations!

REPRESSION CONTINUES

Recently, we have seen the introduction of new so-called "anti - terrorist" measures; the censorship of "violent" organisations and the ending of our right to silence, but in fact these are nothing more than further repressive steps aimed at the public as a whole.

The censorship of "violent" organisations is laughable if it wasn't so serious. Maybe relatives of those killed by the IRA shouldn't have to hear them making feeble excuses on T.V., but the same logic must then apply to the relatives of those killed by the "security" forces, they have to listen to the equally pathetic excuses of army and R.U.C representatives. This censorship is just their latest attack on the freedom of the media which has being going on since the Tories came to power, and it has to be asked where will it end, they are trying to silence everyone who is not a True Blue Tory. If they can get away with this.....

Then comes the right to silence, or rather, the end of it. Instead of "Smashing the IRA" with this change in the law, it is more likely to lead to a massive rise in false confessions forced out of people who might not be able to stand up to "over enthusiatic" police interrogation, instead of being innocent until proven guilty, the onus is now on the "accused" to prove their own innocence under extreme police pressure, like the public order act (which was supposed to curb violence at Orange marches etc). This new change in the law has been designed to hit a much bigger target ie. ANYONE who opposes the status quo. These measures are not an attackon the "terrorist", they are an attack on EVERYONE.

STUDENT PROTEST

Wednesday, 16th Nov. saw Belfast city centre teaming with students from all over the province, and indeed some from the south.

They were marching and protesting against the student loans system that the Thatcher government are planning to substitute for the grant system now in operation. The loan system is yet another plot to make us survive on less than nothing. Education should be accessible to everyone - not just for those with well to do families to support them. However, back to the demo. - what a jolly time was had by all! The Untouchables played some nice music and everyone danced. Some S.U. elite gave some very fiery speeches, and everyone cheered and chanted accordingly. Meanwhile, stewards (more S.U. elite) made everyone behave themselves.

A few militant, Young Socialist and Labour party people wandered about canvassing for their respective political parties, then everyone went home.

The sad thing is that this sort of thing changes nothing. A peaceful demo is no threat to Margaret's policies, the only threat comes by civil unrest. The student riots of the '60s proved this. If it's grants and not loans that students want, they are going to have to make themsleves heard and I don't mean by standing about in a crowd shouting "Maggie Maggie Maggie Out Out Out !!".
Use yor imagination. Don't be led by the S.U., if you really care there's plenty you can do. Lead yourself, just get out and get on with it.

—YUPPIES OUT !!

Some of you may have noticed the recent changes that have taken place within Belfast city centre. I'm sure that for the most part they can't be missed!

If you can think back a year or three it all started when they ripped up all those boring grey paving stones and replaced them with nice snazzy red bricks.(It must have cost a fortune and what was so badly wrong with the old paving stones anyway?) Then of course with the ground looking so pretty they had to start improving the rest of the city centre. Suddenly and as if by magic we had hanging gardens dangling from every lampost(very nice they are too), telephone kiosks by the thousand, litter bins at three foot intervals and shiny new wooden benches thoughtfully placed to rest our weary bodies on after hard day spent fighting our way through the crowds in the city centre stores.

Those chaps in the the council chambers, you're thinking to yourself they must be absolutely wizards of genius, imagine them thinking up all those things that we so desparately needed, and all by themselves too. Marvellous so it is! But it didn't stop there. Oh no. Do you know the next thing that they did for us was invite all these extremely clever building contracters, architects and suchfolk down to the city hall for tea and before any of us ordinary simple citizens of Belfast knew what had hit us,they'd pulled down most of those nasty, old derelict buildings that used to make the town look so untidy and replaced them with some of those beautifully designed, ultra modern, high-tech,designed to look quaint and old fasioned buildings that we see so much of nowadays. We now have stacks of mega trendy shops, office and nightclubs to spend our pennies in and to be honest things are really beginning to get exiting and cosmopolitan in what was once dreary old depressing Belfast.

Well that brings my wee story up to the present and before I go any further I'd like to tell you about the latest wonderful developments in the scheme to get 'Belfast buzzing'(as the electronic signboard outside the post office says). Our old friends and gracious benefactors in the city hall have come up with yet another wonderful scheme to make Belfast beautiful again. Now I'm sure you all know about that dirty auld eye-sore we fondly call the River Lagan, well guess what they're going to clean it all up, and they're going to get rid of all those ugly old mill houses on the Ormeau Road and build some very attractive new ones. "Great", I hear you cry "brilliant". No more pollution, and bad housing. We're all going to get jobs, building and running all these new housing and enterprise schemes and the end of the day we'll have a lovely thriving community. We won't have to sign on any more and we'll have lovely new houses, a beautifully, scenic, clean and safe environment. It all sounds very nice doesn't it?

My nice wee story told now I bring my self to the real point of this article. Across the water over recent years the working class areas of the large towns and cities have been experiencing what has been called a 'Yuppie invasion' which effectively means a take over of areas (once designated suitable only for the poor and working classes) by the rich and upper classes. The nice town planners certainly don't have our interest at heart when deciding all these improvements. Their only real interest lies in the people with money and in the potential to make a mass profit. Well what about all the employment that is to be gained by this scheme? Yes certainly there will be the opportunity for employment but think about it . What you'll actually be doing is destroying your community. You will be allocated homes elsewhere, probably in an even more derelict area(if that's possible).You will be separated from freinds,neighbours and family and when the project is comleted you will probably be out of work again. People in other parts of the country have proved that these people can be beaten and they have proved that by local organisation and resistance that they can kick the yuppies out of their communities and indeed improve their communities without the interference of outside profit motivated agencies.So it's up to you now tell them what to do with thir schemes.Tell the yuppies to FUCK OFF!

This newsheet has been put together by some individuals from Warzone. Any opinions expressed are those of the author concerned and are not neccessarily the opinion of everyone in the collective.

We are still looking for contributions and information on happenings from around Ireland. So write and tell us what the crack is in your area.

Also if you can distribute some copies of Warzine,please write and let us know and we will send you a bundle. The newsheet is free but donations to help with the cost of printing and distribution would be very much appreciated.

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